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CATTLE FEEDING SITUATION DECEMBER 1, 1930.

The shipments of stocker and feeder cattle through public stockyards into the eleven Corn Belt states in November this year were relatively large. While they were 15 per cent smaller than the heavy shipments in November 1929, they were only 5 per cent smaller than the November average for the five years 1925 to 1929.

The receipts of cattle at markets during November this year were the smallest for the month in many years. For the 7 leading markets they were the smallest in over fourteen years and were only 79 per cent as large as in November 1929 and 69 per cent of the 5-year November average.

The total shipments of stockers and feeders into the Corn Belt for the five months, July to November, inclusive, this year, because of the small shipments during the first three months of the period, were 12 per cent or 180,000 head smaller this year than in 1929 and 10 per cent smaller than the 5-year average shipments for the period. They were the second smallest since 1920. Shipments into all of the states except Nebraska, South Dakota and Minnesota were smaller this year than last. There was an increase of 20 per cent in the shipments into Nebraska and small increases in the shipments into the other two states.

The number of cattle fed in the western states will probably be smaller this winter than last. As a result of heavy in-shipments into northern Colorado during November it now seems probable that Colorado will feed about as many cattle as in the winter of 1929-30. There will be a small increase in feeding over a year ago in Wyoming and Nevada and a considerable increase in California, where cattle feeding in the winter of 1929-30 was on a very restricted scale. In all of the other western states the number will be smaller this year than last. Shipments of feeder cattle into the Lancaster, Pennsylvania feeding area to the end of November indicates that feeding there this winter will be much reduced from last winter.

With shipments of cattle into the Corn Belt smaller this year than last, with the movement relatively late and with the large proportion of calves in the total, indications are that the supply of fed cattle available for market during the first three months, at least of 1931 will be considerably smaller than for the same period in 1930.

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